

# VOLUNTEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

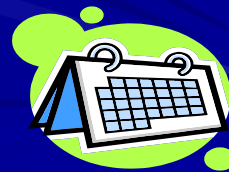


ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK  
FEBRUARY 22, 2007



## MEETING AGENDA

- Announcements/Public Comments to Date
- VAC Survey Results
- Small Group Discussion
- Common Themes & First Steps
- 2007 Schedule
- Determining Further Data Collection
- Finalizing VAC Representation
- Next Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Evaluation
- Public Comment Period



## MEETING GUIDELINES

- Turn off cell phones/vibrate
- Respect each other's perspectives
- Actively listen to one another
- Participate and share your thoughts
- Work for the greatest good of Rosebud Battlefield State Park



## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- Who do you think are the primary “users” or “customers” of the Park?
- How often do you use the Park? For what purpose or activities?
- In the future, what activities would you like to participate in at the Park?
- Describe your ideal visit to the Park.
- What is your vision for the Park?



## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- What would you like to see preserved and/or left unchanged in the Park?
- What concerns do you have about the Park?
- What services would you like to see available? What facilities?
- If access into the Park were to change, what would be your suggestion? What levels of access would you like to see within the Park?



## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- What level of maintenance would you most like to see? What improvements?
- What would sustainable management look like?
- What suggestions do you have for FWP in developing the management plan?
- In what ways does the Park complement and/or compete with other attractions in the area?



# SURVEY PROCESS

- Received 13 Completed Surveys
- Collated Data Anonymously
- Looked for Themes & tried to organize in a meaningful way
- Made some observations



# PRIMARY USERS

- Authors/Educators
- Historians/History Buffs
- Native Americans
- Naturalists
- Landowners/Montanans/Ranchers
- Recreationists
- Researchers/Scientists
- Spiritual Experience Seekers
- Tourists/Tourism Entrepreneurs
- US Military



## PERSONAL USE

- Frequency: Not visited - 2 times/year – 5-7 times/year – numerous times
- Purpose or Activities:
  - Educational/Historical tours
  - Recreational (including enjoying nature, hiking, horseback riding, entertaining friends, hunting, etc.)
  - Work-related
  - Ceremonial uses



## PERSONAL USE

- Future Activities:
  - History/archeological activities (for education)
  - Interpretation
  - Handouts for self-guided experiences
  - Re-creation of battle site, reenactments
  - Tribal interpretive programs
  - Pre-arranged guided tours
  - Continuation of current activities



# IDEAL VISIT TO THE PARK

- A Pristine Experience/Recreation
- Education/Interpretation
- Educational Tools
- Native American Perspective



# VISION FOR THE PARK

- A Pristine Experience
- Visitor's Services/Opportunities
  - User-friendly park: paths, signage, staff, etc.
  - Visitor's center: best location?
- Education/Interpretation
  - Educational tools: self-guided tours
  - Greater Tribal Protocol understanding
  - Interpretive sites scattered around, unobtrusive to maintain ambience
  - Archeological investigations/historical significance



## PRESERVED/LEFT UNCHANGED

### ■ Pristine Nature of Park:

- Leave in original state/preserve feel of place
- Preserve feeling of solitude
- Preserve the land and its natural resources
- Keep man-made disturbances to small area
- Limit light pollution & vehicles

### ■ Cultural/Historic Resources:

- Cultural landscape integrity/all archeological & historic resources
- Large undisturbed views to retain history of the area

## CONCERNS ABOUT PARK

### ■ Majority agreement (10) on:

- Preserving aesthetics
- Limiting energy development
- Protecting/preserving historic & cultural resources
- Protecting natural resources
- Preventing trespassing
- Preventing vandalism & theft

## CONCERNS ABOUT PARK

- Additional concerns:
  - Access
  - Commercial use
  - Cultural sensitivity for all users
  - Future development
  - Interpretation
  - Management/maintenance of Park
  - Trash

## SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Access: not hurt primitiveness, additional roads if can limit impact, put on fringes of Park boundary, improve entrance area (parking, shelter, etc.)
- Drinking water
- Education: better & more handouts & materials with photos/maps, improved presentation of main event, include information about wildlife

## SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Interpretation: tours, don't detract from ambience, better interpretation of battle (sight poles?), greater tribal presence & hands-on activities, only expanded interpretation (no more facilities), identify flora/fauna & artifacts, signage, less interpretation than LBH
- Organized programs: special programs on request; in spring & fall program that includes tribes & ranchers like at Chief Plenty Coup
- Picnic site: simple, small, for families, not appropriate on site

## SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Restrooms: top priority, at entrance, good ones, necessary
- Special events: develop & publicize guidelines & limited areas for events to protect resources; reenactments
- Tours: self-guided, some scheduled during summer, marked paths
- Trails: interpretive with levels of access; walking trails to see battle event sites, jump, etc.

# SERVICES & FACILITIES

## ■ Visitor's Center:

- Strategically placed parking, visitor, interpretive, restroom & refreshment center (will need in future)
- Simple hub or focal point with parking, education & interpretation, staff, covered/sheltered area
- Should be sited along highway where school was; don't clutter battle ground with roads & buildings destroying sense of time & place
- Blend with surrounding area/low key (use ranch house?)
- All weather road/parking lot at Crooks Hill
- No trailers/Add tie racks for horseback groups
- Parks person to do tours & security

# ACCESS

## ■ Access into Park

- Don't change, just improve
- Limited access is key
- Charge for entrance/extra for tour groups
- Needs to be firmed up & guaranteed (still limited)
- Permanent access agreement
- Presently it's adequate; in future will need a separate, developed entry access (plan now)
- Tribal access/Lesser fee or no charge for N.A.
- Improve signage at key intersections



# ACCESS

## – Suggestions:

- Public access through Big Bend Ranch not good unless a non-commercial condition is placed
- Recommend an access road from highway due west onto Van Vleits ridge
- Road to southeast
- Up Indian Creek and over to Crook's Hill



# ACCESS

## ■ Access within Park:

- Limited/only to better understand historic use
- Improve road (graveled) on D loop
- Improve neighbor access
- Get people to main event & other sites without hurting environment (nothing paved)
- Place interpretation along ridge top
- Access to Crooks Hill is imperative, beyond that “leave no trace” trails

## ACCESS

- Variety of accessibility levels from wider packed aggregate for easy access to single track dirt trails
- Develop variety of trails to sites/foot & cart paths
- Walking trails for those with stamina; to guide traffic
- Move restrooms & interpretive displays to Crooks Hill, parking lot & picnic area as well

## LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE

### ■ Staffing

- Fully facilitated/permanent or full time management
- Warden/parks person during peak season/ full time presence with budget/on site ranger
- Provide interpretive services/guided tours
- Maintenance or security person living on site
- Manage Park using local people

### ■ Limited Maintenance

- Trash pick up/enough to keep site “tidy”/keep undisturbed
- Continue day-use limitations/define allowable uses

## LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE

- Resource Management
  - Manage all resources: grazing, weeds, planned burns, hay harvesting, water quantity & quality, etc.
  - Protect historic & cultural properties
- Management of Roads/Structures
  - Maintain & repair border fences, boundaries
  - Timely road maintenance/paved road
  - Continue to stabilize Kobold farmstead

## SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

- Protection/Minimal Impact
- Funding/Planning
- Education
- Energy Development Protection
- Special Interests



## SUGGESTIONS FOR FWP

- Planning Process
- Historic Preservation
- Protection
- Park Status
- Services



## COMPLEMENT/COMPETITION

- Competition:
  - Competes with Bighorn Battlefield
  - Unique & aesthetic values could dominate
  - Low development might reduce competition with private campgrounds & other parks
  - Competition just for grants and volunteers?
  - No competition

## COMPLEMENT/COMPETITION

### ■ Complements:

- As National Landmark, archeological & historic site, energy resource potential, water resource area
- As a piece of regional history & immigration west; can partner with many other parks, museums, tourist groups, etc.
- Partnering in regional economy
- Complements Indian War sites in MT & WY

## COMPLEMENT/COMPETITION

### ■ Complements:

- Allows for self exploration & interpretation
- Complements natural surroundings & properties
- All the other historical locations in the area
- A place where history happened
- An unpolished gem
- Prelude to Little Big Horn battle

# OBSERVATIONS

- High level of agreement on keeping the pristine nature of the Park
- Mixed agreement on how much development to allow in the Park (services/facilities)
  - Most in favor of a visitor's center, but where? How elaborate?
  - Paved roads? Gravel roads? Few roads?
  - Comfortable restrooms and drinking water are a must
  - Minimal lighting



# OBSERVATIONS

- Interpretation: Historical/cultural resources are very important and are a major draw
  - How much interpretation? Where?
  - User-friendly vs. minimal?
- Education is important to provide in some form (staffing, materials, etc.)
- General agreement that the Park needs at least one full/time staff, on site if possible, for security, maintenance, education



## OBSERVATIONS

- Mixed agreement around access into and within Park
  - Permanent access will be necessary in the future, plan now
  - Roads vs. trails
- High agreement on 6 concerns facing development of the Park
- High agreement on ensuring Native American presence in the Park's education, interpretation & access



## OBSERVATIONS

- Resource management will be widespread & expected
- Little to no interest in energy development in the Park
- A majority believe the Park complements and enhances other attractions in the region
  - Many opportunities for partnerships with other attractions



## Results of Town Hall Mtg. I

- Key Themes: Vision, Take into Future
  - Keep natural
  - Preserve history
  - Protect resources
  - Involve Native Americans
  - Be user friendly in management & interpretation/education

## Results of Town Hall Mtg. I

- Key Themes: Concerns/Suggestions
  - Energy development
  - Overuse/use without a plan
  - Resource protection—weeds, fire, water, grazing
  - Traffic control on site
  - Decisions made outside local community
  - Need open public process/include all
  - Need more efficient meeting notices

## CONSENSUS MODEL

- 80 % Agreement  
(I can agree 70-80%)
- 100% Commitment  
(I will commit 100%)



## SMALL GROUP ROLES

- *Facilitator*: make sure everyone in the group has a chance to participate; watch the time.
- *Recorder*: write down the group's responses on the flipchart; write large and don't worry about spelling.
- *Spokesperson*: report out the group's responses as written on the flipchart.



## DISCUSSION

*In small groups, discuss questions & record responses on flipcharts:*

1. What are our reactions to the data? Is there anything we would add or delete?
2. What are our key findings/observations from the data?
3. What should we focus on first in moving forward?

## REPORT OUTS

- Find common themes
- Agree on first steps
- Determine what more information is needed for the group to proceed (e.g., readings, presentations, etc.)
- Develop 2007 schedule for VAC: data collection period, drafting recommendations, public meetings, etc.

## Process & Timeline

- External facilitator – Peaks to Plains Design
- 3 Town Hall Meetings, 6-8 VAC meetings
- Public meetings, posting of meeting minutes
- Public review of draft recommendations
- VAC adjusts recommendations based on public comments
- FWP may make final adjustments
- Director approves and signs plan
- Completed by December 2007

## FURTHER DATA COLLECTION

- Identify any other key constituent groups to complete this survey (limit of 3 focus groups)
- Website survey for general public
- Any other suggestions for gathering data?

# Planning Process



- Public input in many ways - many sources
  - Town Hall Meetings
  - Web Survey
  - Written comments
  - E-mails
  - Comments to draft documents
  - Focus groups for key constituent groups

## FINALIZING MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- VAC Representation
  - Travel MT, Sioux, Military
- FWP Parameters as Steward
- VAC Charter & Guidelines

## Variety of Perspectives

- Commercial use
- County
- Crow
- Eastern Shoshone
- Education & interpretation
- Energy industry
- Historian
- Natural resources
- Neighboring landowners
- Northern Cheyenne
- Ranching
- Recreation
- Sioux
- Tourism

## FWP = Steward

- Protect the resources: prehistoric, historic, natural
  - Mitigate mineral development impacts
- Provide a place to serve visitors and staff to operate
- Provide ways to educate & interpret
  - Significance of the site
  - Stories from many cultures
- Ensure public access



# Volunteer Advisory Committee

- Represents spokes of a communication wheel
  - Public contact VAC
  - VAC contact public
  - Convey input to other committee members
- Considers public input from many sources
- Discusses options & alternatives
- Forms best recommendations for the park



# Voluntary Advisory Committee

- Willing to listen & discuss
- Willing to commit time to process
- Willing to consider a comprehensive approach (not a single issue)
- Willing to work toward consensus
- Small group – 14 members
- Represents variety of perspectives through diverse backgrounds, interest, expertise

## VAC Charter

- Mission of the Volunteer Advisory Committee
  - Identify park issues and trends
  - Formulate management recommendations for addressing them
  - Base recommendations on a balanced perspective, considering funding, staffing, resource needs, and community desires

## VAC Charter

- The recommendations help form management plan and will guide future projects and activities at Rosebud Battlefield State Park.
- Recommendations will be crucial in helping FWP meet the needs and desires of Rosebud Battlefield's constituencies.
- Recommendations will be advisory in nature - FWP is ultimately responsible for the management of Rosebud Battlefield State Park.
- Regional Supervisor, Parks Administrator & Director all must approve the management plan.

## NEXT STEPS

- Reading assignments
- Addresses for mailing list
- Next VAC meeting agenda
- Meeting evaluation
- Public comment period



## CONTACTS

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